committees. Free legal aid is also provided to the older persons. Helpline for older persons has been established.

(c) Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, the Central Government grants additional central assistance to the State Governments at the rate of Rs. 200 per person per month for payment of old age pension to destitute older persons. Government also provides 10 Kilograms of rice free of cost to the senior citizens living below poverty line. Both these schemes are also being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Representations received by the Ministry

2892. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from All India Association for SC/STs Physically Handicapped by Prime Minister Office between 30th December, 2006 to till date through Fax/by post regarding joining in main stream of Government aided projects by SC/ST Association;

(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when action would be taken thereon;

(d) whether any directions/instructions are issued to all concerned Ministries/Departments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) No representation has been received by the Prime Minister Office from All India Association for SC/STs and Physically Handicapped. Only a reminder dated 8.6.2007 was received by them which does not contain details of relief sought. Hence, no action has been feasible.

Representations regarding appointment

2893. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of letters received between 19th December, 2006 and till date from VIPs and All India Associations for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped by the Ministry and National Commission for Scheduled Caste/Tribe in respect of appointments made for more than 45 days;

(b) whether any action has been taken thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) by when reply would be sent to all concerned after taking action in pending issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Quota for jobs in private sector

2894. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been negotiating with private industries for giving quota for jobs in private sector in the country; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to implement the voluntary quota for jobs in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) In response to the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with Industry and other associations to fulfill the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a Group of Ministers was formed. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. To carry forward the process of dialogue, a Coordination Committee was constituted. The Committee has so far held two meetings and also held discussions with Apex Industry Associations. The discussions have primarily centered around the measures by industry for enhancing their skill development and increasing employability.

Amendment in Persons with Disabilities Act

†2895. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to include persons suffering from Haemophilia, Thalesemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia in the list of disabled persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when this Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.